



Black History Month

Drum, Music and Dance Inspire At Black History Month Event

by Michelle Siegel



PHOTO BY MICHELLE SIEGEL

Springhill Lake Recreation Center Recreation Coordinator Brian Butler shares the mic during his performance at the "Wellness, Movement, Inspiration" community event, held on Saturday, February 15, at Beltway Plaza in honor of Black History Month.

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

A chorus of drum beats could be heard echoing down the halls of Beltway Plaza Mall on Saturday afternoon, as a crowd of more than 50 community members gathered at the west end

of the facility for a celebration of African American music and culture.

The event – titled Wellness, Movement, Inspiration – was organized by the Greenbelt Black History Month Committee and led by local drum circle

See **DRUMS**, page 12

Police Warn of Robberies Connected to Dating App

by Brogan Gerhart

The Greenbelt Police Department released a citizen advisory on February 16 warning residents of a recent string of armed robberies in the 6200 block of Springhill Court involving victims agreeing to meet women through a dating website.

According to police, when victims arrived at the agreed-upon location, they were met by armed suspects wearing masks. "The victims are usually physically assaulted and their wallets, car keys and cell phones are taken," the citizen advisory read.

Five of these incidents have occurred within the past three weeks, police said. One of the dating websites, police said, being utilized to initiate contact with victims is an app called MeetMe.

There are currently no suspects or arrests, according to the department's Public Information Liaison George Mathews. However, Mathews said that there are ways residents can protect themselves.

"You do not meet someone at the location of their choosing," Mathews said, "for any type of in-person transaction."

Mathews said that residents should keep in mind that they are

meeting an absolute stranger, and are taking a huge leap of faith.

"Choose the place you meet strangers and make sure that place is well-lit and populated with plenty of eyes and ears,

See **DATING APP**, page 9

Aviso a Residentes Robos utilizando Aplicaciones para citas

Hemos tenido varios reportes de robo a mano armada en el area de la ciudad de Greenbelt. En estos robos, las victimas utilizan una aplicacion para citas románticas con otras personas. Una vez que las victimas acceden a encontrarse, se encuentran con individuos armados utilizando mascararas. Las victimas en estos casos, son agredidas y son despojados de sus carteras, llaves de sus vehículos y celulares. Ciudadanos, les estamos recomendando no citarte con estranos. Si alguien tiene mas información de estas aplicaciones o de estos casos, por favor comuníquese a la brevedad posible con la Policía de la Ciudad de Greenbelt al 301-474-7200.

City Council Critiques Revised Beltway Plaza Redevelopment

by Michelle Siegel

City Council voted 5-2 to support the Beltway Plaza Preliminary Plan of Subdivision (PPS) at their February 10 regular meeting. Although only Mayor Colin Byrd and Councilmember Rodney Roberts voted against supporting the current version of the PPS, the plan spent more than two hours under intense scrutiny from the council at large. The PPS would see Beltway Plaza Mall transformed into a mixed-use development containing both residential units and retail space.

At the center of the night's debates were the conditions that Quantum Companies, the owner of Beltway Plaza Mall and applicant for its redevelopment, would be expected to agree to in order to secure the support of the city. While city staff has been actively negotiating these stipulations with Quantum, councilmembers had not been given the chance to review the latest revisions prior to convening, according to Councilmember Edward Putens.

Roberts admonished the PPS for what he saw as a lack of emphasis on school adequacy, referring to this perceived oversight

as "a disgrace to the city and the county." He also argued that the indoor public recreation space – increased from 20,000 square feet to 25,000 – was still not enough to service the 2,500 multi-family residential units planned for the redeveloped site.

Additionally, Roberts took issue with a new revision changing the cap on rental units from 75 percent to no more than 2,000, and called the figure "too many."

Councilmembers Leta Mach and Judith Davis also expressed uncertainty regarding the PPS requirements for residential unit use. Of particular concern was a new condition requiring Quantum to do no more than consider implementing alternative unit types, such as senior housing, and only if a market study conducted by the applicant deemed these options marketable. Council and McNamee Hosea attorney Matthew Tedesco, representing Quantum, discussed the alternative possibility of Quantum funding a market study conducted by the city.



PHOTO BY MICHELLE SIEGEL

Attorney Matthew Tedesco represents Quantum Companies at the Greenbelt City Council meeting on Monday, February 10.

At another point, Putens and Davis debated the wording of a condition that would see Quantum explore a shuttle service between Greenbelt West and other areas of the city. Putens said that he wanted the condition to require that Quantum put forth "some real, concentrated effort to make something happen," while Davis rebutted that citywide transport

See **COUNCIL**, page 9

Democracy in Peril Is Theme Of Greenbelt Youth Musical

by Anne Oudemans

The Greenbelt Youth Musical is celebrating its 20th year with a brand-new, world-premiere musical that is both timeless and topical, because it focuses on democracy in peril. The show, Theseus and the Monster in the Maze, tells the spellbinding story of Theseus, the legendary founder and defender of Athenian democracy.

Theseus' story is presented as a show-within-a-show in the production, which is set in a not-too-distant future, in which an autocratic leader has seized power and compelled all citizens to follow him on social media. Putting on a play about Theseus

is thus an act of courage and defiance for the young heroes of the Resistance, who are seeking to restore democracy.

The play was written by Greenbelter Chris Cherry, who is also directing the show in his capacity as performing arts coordinator for the city. Cherry founded the Greenbelt Youth Musical program and has directed all

of the productions.

"This play has been a special joy to write and direct," said Cherry. "I have wanted to create a musical about Theseus for a long time, and now current events have made it important to tell his story."

He praised the cast of 34 teen

See **MUSICAL**, page 8

What Goes On

Saturday, February 22
8 a.m. Council Worksession, Council Goals, Municipal Building
Monday, February 24
8 p.m. City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Wednesday, February 26
8 p.m. Council Worksession, Friends of the Greenbelt Museum, Community Center



PHOTO BY OLIVIA GUERRIERI

Prince Androgeos (Vanessa Daelemans), left, gives a pointed lesson in swordfighting to Theseus (Sean Brittan-Powell) during rehearsals for the 2020 Greenbelt Youth Musical, Theseus and the Monster in the Maze.

Letters to the Editor

Community Visioning

At the last regular city council meeting, council considered a resolution for first reading to authorize the negotiated purchase of professional services from a specific firm to undertake a community visioning process.

Per the agenda packet, this firm will seek community input on a broad range of topics such as public safety, recreation, transportation, the environment, economic development and social services.

However, the firm selected by staff to lead this effort is focused on “the evolution of the built environment” per the firm’s website. Under the proposal submitted by the firm, two architects will lead Greenbelt’s community visioning process.

The firm’s proposal asserts that “in the past several years, the City of Greenbelt has undertaken several robust planning processes. The result of these plans is a set of goals and priorities that reflect the city’s values.” The firm’s intent is “to build on the success of previous plans.”

In reviewing this proposal several questions come to mind:

- Does a firm, whose focus is on the built environment, have the skill set necessary to conduct a broad based community visioning process?

- Is it accurate to state the planning proposals undertaken by the city over the past several years were robust, successful and resulted in a set of goals and priorities that reflect the city’s values?

- Who determined the city’s goals and priorities during these processes? Was the community afforded the opportunity to actively participate in and identify the values which came out of these planning processes?

Two of the city’s major planning processes in recent years include:

- An economic development strategy – produced by a consulting firm – resulting in five recommendations of which only two have been pursued by council.

- A draft Competitive & Collaborative Analysis which was never finalized by the consultant. The draft analysis included recommendations to the council based upon 50-plus confidential interviews.

It is my hope council rejects the proposal and resolution. Shouldn’t the community be more involved in this process? Other jurisdictions invite community participation and input into the planning of the community visioning process. Why doesn’t Greenbelt?

Molly Lester



Corrections

In the February 13 article highlighting Kenneth Harris II being named Forbes 30 under 30, Joshua Thomas should have been identified as the current District 2 Board of Education Member.

Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web greenbeltnewsreview.com para ver artículos en español.

See our website, greenbeltnewsreview.com, for articles in Spanish.

Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org
Members Always \$6.50!
Members' Kids Free!
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES
February 21st - 27th

The Auditorium
PARASITE (R)(Korean w/ English subtitles)(132 mins)
Fri. 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 PM
Sat. 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 PM
Sun. 5:00, 8:00 PM
Mon. 5:00, 8:00 PM
Tues. 5:00, 8:00 PM
Wed. 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 PM
Thurs. 5:00, 8:00 PM

HARRIET (PG-13)(CC) (DVS)(2019)(125 mins)
Sun. 1:00 PM - Free!

Storytime on Screen
Mon. 10:30 AM - Free!

The Pop-Up:
BEANPOLE (NR)(Russian w/English subtitles) (2019)(139 mins)
Fri. 5:15 PM
Sat. 2:30, 5:15 PM
Sun. 2:30, 5:15 PM
Mon. 5:15 PM
Tues. 5:15 PM
Wed. 2:30, 5:15 PM
Thurs. 5:15 PM

Greenbelt "Lake"

1/16/20
Thomas S.

University of Maryland Reporters

University of Maryland students in journalism are writing for the News Review: Brogan Gerhart, Michelle Siegel and Grace Kathleen Todd.

Greenbelt News Review

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15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887
Phone: 301-474-4131; Fax: 301-965-8247
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos)
ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)
business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)
website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com
Community Calendar: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/calendar

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Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -10 p.m.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN KEARNEY

Early blooms at 59 Court Ridge

On Screen

Parasite continues (Auditorium)

2020 Oscar winner for Best Picture, the first non-English language film to take the top prize.

Beanpole (Pop-up)

Set in Leningrad in 1945, World War II has devastated the city, demolishing its buildings and leaving its citizens in tatters, physically and mentally. Although the siege – one of the worst in history – is finally over, life and death continue to battle in the wreckage that remains. Two young women, Iya and Masha, search for meaning and hope in the struggle to rebuild their lives amongst the ruins.

David Fear of Rolling Stone calls the film, “a melodrama about life after wartime, a dual character study and sometimes veers very close to being a bleak, caustic buddy comedy.”

In Russian with English subtitles.
Not rated. Running time: 139 minutes

- Sandy Rodgers

Community Events

Art Drop-in Sunday For Making Postcards

The Recreation Arts Program invites guests of all ages to make their own mixed media art postcards at a Community Art Drop-in on Sunday, March 1. One option is to take inspiration from the thoughtful words of quotable women in celebration of Women’s History Month. Both art materials and starter quotes will be provided, but feel free to bring along any inspiring words of wisdom. This workshop will be led by Racquel Keller, an artist in residence and instructor of painting and drawing at the Community Center. The event takes place in the Ground Floor East Space at the Community Center. Admission is free, but reservations are recommended; follow the link at greenbeltmd.gov/arts to sign up for the 1 or 2 p.m. seating. A limited number of guests will also be welcome on a walk-up basis as space allows.

Time Bank Hosts Mardi Gras Social

The Greenbelt Time Bank will host a Mardi Gras Social Event on Tuesday, February 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Attendees are encouraged to bring a snack and their own utensils, plates, cups and napkins, as this is a zero-waste event.

The general public is invited to come and learn about the time bank, how to get involved, what the time bank does and who is a member.

For questions, concerns or additional information, contact Linda Warren Seely at lwseely@gmail.com or Greenbelt.Timebank@gmail.com. Also, visit them on Facebook at facebook.com/greenbelttimebank/.

Dems Will Screen Black History Film

The Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club will be screening a film in honor of Black History Month. The film celebrates the history of the battalion of 817 African American women, known as Six Triple Eight, who delivered mail to U.S. Troops in WWII. The film will be shown Friday, February 21, at 7 p.m. at the Greenbriar Community Building, Room 101, 7600 Hanover Parkway.



Nursery School Holds Open House Feb. 22

Greenbelt Nursery School will hold its annual Open House on Saturday, February 22, in the Community Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is the start of registration for the school year beginning September 2020. Families seeking preschool programs are invited to attend the Open House, meet the director, teachers and parents, view the classrooms and get information about the classes. Parking is available in the lot behind the Greenbelt Library. For more information, visit greenbeltnurseryschool.org or call the school at 301-474-5570.

Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208 ext. 4215.

All meals, which provide at least one-third of Recommended Dietary Allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for the week of February 24 are as follows:

Monday, February 24: sliced turkey with country gravy, mashed spiced yams, green beans, biscuit, fresh fruit, apple juice

Tuesday, February 25: chicken gumbo, brown rice, mixed greens, corn muffin, fresh fruit, orange juice

Wednesday, February 26: veggie sloppy joe, potato wedges, peach cobbler, apple slaw, hamburger bun, cranberry juice

Thursday, February 27: sliced roast beef with gravy, whipped potatoes, glazed carrots, roll, fresh fruit, orange juice

Friday, February 28: stuffed shells with marinara sauce, green peas, hot spiced apples, Italian bread, cranberry juice.

Star Party Saturday

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will host a star party, free and open to the public, on Saturday, February 22 at the City Observatory located at Northway Fields. Attendees can expect to see deep-sky objects currently high in the sky, such as the Orion Nebula, the Crab Nebula and the Cigar Galaxy, viewed through the observatory telescope and astronomical camera. As always, visitors are welcome to set up personal telescopes on the hill.

Observing will begin around 7 p.m. and continue for two hours. Attendees are asked to park in the ballfield lot, not up on the hill, unless bringing a telescope. The star party will be canceled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy.

Widowed Persons Support Group

A six-week support group for widowed persons will meet on Tuesdays from March 3 to April 7 at the Community Center. Each session runs from 10 a.m. to noon.

Being part of a support-discussion group is one of the first steps for many in processing grief. This support group will offer help in finding a new understanding and purpose in life by talking, listening and sharing emotions and coping mechanisms with individuals going through the same experiences.

Participation is free, but registration is required. For more information, call or email: Ms. Heike, 301-464-0104, heikenylnd@msn.com.

Sponsored by the City of Greenbelt and Patuxent Widowed Persons Service.

Black History Panel Discussion Postponed

The Black History Month event, Desegregating Greenbelt, that was scheduled for Saturday, February 22 from 2 to 4 p.m. has been postponed. The two panelists who had direct experience with desegregating Greenbelt both had to cancel due to health reasons. The panelists as well as the moderator, Monica Montgomery, director of the Prince George’s African American Museum and Cultural Center, are willing to participate at a later date. Stay tuned for more information. As soon as a new date is scheduled, it will be announced. The Greenbelt Black History Month Committee and the Greenbelt Museum, cosponsors of the event, apologize for any inconvenience this postponement may have caused.

There is another Black History Month event happening on Saturday that may be of interest. It is a public meeting of the Prince George’s County Lynching Memorial Committee. For information, visit their website, mdlynchingmemorial.org/events.

Whitman Featured In GAC Program

Greenbelt Arts Center presents Leaves of America: Walt Whitman’s Stories of the Civil War, opening Friday, February 21. Complete with projections and storytelling, presented by Chris Dwyer, the show blends documentary style film-making and character portrayal into an hour-long theatrical experience. Dwyer draws on Whitman’s memoirs recounting his search for his wounded brother, his admiration for Abraham Lincoln and his love for his country during this gruesome period of American History.

The show runs at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings and at 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoons through Sunday, March 1. For more information and tickets visit greenbeltartscenter.org.

Astronomical Society Meeting February 27

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt (ASG) will meet on Thursday, February 27 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 114 of the Community Center. The speaker will be Conrad Terrill of ASG who will discuss the current state of astronomical interferometer technology, show some of the best images acquired using this technology and explain the art of generating images from the sparse data provided by interferometer arrays. Everyone is welcome at this meeting.

Table Talk Hosted By Alonzo Washington

Delegate Alonzo T. Washington invites members of the Greenbelt community to his upcoming Table Talk event on Saturday, February 29 at 11 a.m., at the New Deal Café. He will be reviewing his bills for the 2020 Legislative Session, as well as facilitating a discussion on education reform in Maryland. The session is free and open to the public.

Kids Stuff Swap At Youth Center

The Greenbelt Mamas and Papas will sponsor a Kids Stuff Swap scheduled for Saturday, February 22 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Greenbelt Youth Center. Contribute extra gently used baby/toddler gear for newborn to 5-year-olds. This is the chance to give a little and get a little for free. Items will be accepted on the previous Friday before the swap from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Youth Center. No stained or overly worn items. All unclaimed pieces will be donated to local families in need.

Those interested in helping sort items on Friday, February 21 and setup and cleanup on Saturday, February 22 may sign up at bit.ly/kidstuffswap.

More Community Events
are located throughout the paper.

OPENING THIS WEEK: LEAVES OF AMERICA

Leaves of America

Walt Whitman's Stories of the Civil War

Adapted and performed by Christopher Dwyer

FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 1

Tickets available at greenbeltartscenter.org

LEAVES OF AMERICA

Walt Whitman's Stories of the Civil War

Adapted and performed by Christopher Dwyer

Fridays and Saturdays
Feb. 21, 22, 28, 29 at 8:00PM

Sunday Matinees
Feb 23 & Mar 1 at 2:00PM

Buy Tickets at www.greenbeltartscenter.org

Tickets: \$24 adults, \$22 seniors/military, \$12 students/youth

Coming Soon to the Greenbelt Arts Center
March 6 - 8 – *Wicked Thoughts*
March 20 - 29 – *Shipwrecked*

GATe Annual Membership Meeting
Sunday March 15th at 3pm

Join us at the Greenbelt Access Television Studio
15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt MD, Suite 204
for our Annual Membership Meeting!
The meeting includes a recap of last year's events
at GATe and voting for new board members.
Refreshments will be provided.

WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77
STREAMING LIVE at www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream

Program Schedule **Friday Feb 21 - Thursday Feb 27**

7 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Community Events • Weekly Updates
8 am	Democracy Now!	• Independent Global News
9 am	GATe Classic Film ★ Musical • 1938	• The Duke Is Tops • Lena Horne
11 am	Greenbelt Discussions	• Local Topics & Guests
12 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Community Events • Weekly Updates
1 pm	Bob Zugby Remembers	• 33 Years in Service to GATe
2 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Community Events • Weekly Updates
3 pm	GATe Classic Film ★ Musical • 1938	• The Duke Is Tops • Lena Horne
5 pm	Bob Zugby Remembers	• 33 Years in Service to GATe
6 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Community Events • Weekly Updates
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8 pm	GATe Classic Film ★ Musical • 1938	• The Duke Is Tops • Lena Horne
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GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION

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Obituaries

Aaron St. John

Aaron L. St. John died on February 13, 2020. Born and raised in the Kalamazoo, Mich., area, he graduated from the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center while attending Full Lake High School. It was around this time he met Jill Parsons who would become his wife. He headed off to Albion College, with Jill following a year later. They shared many passions: travel, raising chickens and an enduring love of dogs. They were united in marriage in 1997 and over the next 22 years raised two children: Sylvia, 13, who was born in Greenbelt; and Wilson, 8.

Mr. St. John excelled in mathematics, leading him to a career in technology that took his family from Washington, D.C., and

Greenbelt from 2000 to 2008, to Brussels, Belgium, to Denver, Colo., and back home to Kalamazoo.

He is survived by his wife, a former director of the Greenbelt Museum, and two children; his mother, Karen St. John (William Claspell); a sister, Vanessa St. John; and many aunts, uncles and cousins. He was preceded in death by his father, Garry St. John, and brother, Brian St. John.

Funeral services will be held at Langeland Family Funeral Home in Kalamazoo on February 21. For details see langelands.com/obituary/Aaron-StJohn. Memorials may be directed to support an educational fund for his children (see gofundme.com/f/aaron-st-john-memorial-fund).

Mowatt MUMC Holds Pancake Supper Feb. 25

Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter, was traditionally a time of fasting. On Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were shriven (absolved from their sins). The association between pancakes and Shrove Tuesday may have arisen as it permits foods that couldn't be eaten during Lent, such as the butter, eggs and fat that need to be used up. The specific custom of Christians eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday dates to the 16th century.

Join Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church on February 25, Shrove Tuesday, for free pancakes from 5 to 6 p.m. in their Fellowship Hall. The church is located at 40 Ridge Road; call 301-474-9410 for more information. All are welcome.

Interfaith Network Meets February 27

The Beloved Community Interfaith Network (BCIN) of Prince George's County will be having their upcoming monthly meeting on Thursday, February 27 at 6:30 p.m., at Mishkan Torah Synagogue. The topics of discussion will be centered around faith and environmentalism. Guest speaker Rabbi Nina Cardin will present a proposal for an environment, health and justice amendment to the Maryland state constitution. BCIN was established in 2016 by concerned people of various faiths to discuss and address social justice and human rights issues within the county, the nation and the world.



Our Neighbors

Friends, former neighbors and patrons of the Greenbelt Museum were saddened to learn of the death in Kalamazoo, Mich., of Aaron St. John, who lived with his wife, Jill Parsons, in Greenbelt from 2000 to 2008. Jill was at one time the director of the Greenbelt Museum; Aaron and Jill's daughter Sylvia was born in Greenbelt.

Congratulations to Maeve Balantine of Greenbelt who was awarded Dean's List academic honors for the fall 2019 semester at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Chili Cookoff 2020 Results: Delicious!

Kudos to Eldo Brown (1st), Robert Goldberg-Strassler (2nd) and Kris White (3rd) for their delicious contributions to Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church's Second Annual Chili Cookoff. Vegetarian chili was a major contender, and this year featured more chili and more salad. Consensus was that the desserts were great.

From the dinner and bake sale, the Mowatt United Methodist Women will send funds to the Colombia Grace Foundation to help Katie Zevallos with her teaching work in South America. Mowatt MUMC offers many thanks to all who supported the cookoff.

Community Church Holds Pancake Dinner

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ is holding its annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on Tuesday, February 25 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. Dinner will include pancakes, sausage and scalloped apples. A freewill offering will be taken.

Mowatt MUMC Hosts Lenten Study Group

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church will offer a Lenten study group on Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the downstairs nursery room. The first session is on February 29, the last on April 11. The study will be based on Balancing Life on the Edge of a Cliff by Greenbelt author Peggy Rooney. There is no fee except for optional purchase of the book. Lunch will be provided. All are welcome. For further information, call 301-474-9410.



Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building
ALL ARE WELCOME.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Pancakes, sausage, and our legendary baked apples will be served


Tuesday, February 25 5:30 to 7:30 PM

freewill offering

Greenbelt Community Church United Church of Christ

1 Hillside Road, Greenbelt





“They who are the people of God have no ambition except to revive the world, to ennoble its life, and regenerate its peoples. Truthfulness and good-will have, at all times, marked their relations with all men.”

– Bahá'í Writings

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

1-800-22-UNITE
Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com

301-345-2918
www.greenbeltbahais.org



Greenbelt Community Church UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
a just world for all


Join Us this Sunday at 10:15

Empowering Lives Through Jesus Christ

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your Spiritual journey, you are welcome **HERE**.

1 Hillside Road, Greenbelt 301-474-6171 Rev. Glenyce Grindstaff

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322



Mass Schedule:
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

The Bible Says...

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9




Sunday Worship Services
10am @ Greenbelt Elementary School
MCFcc.org

Christian Science Church

8300 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.” Prov. 30

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday meeting 7:30 p.m.





Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky Cantor Phil Greenfield


An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services 8:00 PM
Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM.
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At the Library
Storytime on Screen
Monday, February 24: 10:30 a.m., ages newborn to 5. Bring a baby, toddler or pre-schooler to the Old Greenbelt Theatre (129 Centerway) to listen to a story read from the big screen, see a short film and complete a craft. Popcorn will be provided. No registration required.

Teen Advisory Board
Monday, February 24: 4 p.m., ages 13 to 18, limit 15 participants. Earn service hours while making the Library a great place for teens. Registration required.

Books at Bedtime
Monday, February 24: 6:30 p.m., ages newborn to 3, limit 20 people. Presented by the Prince George’s County Infants and Toddlers Program. This is an opportunity for children under 3 with special needs, along with their family and friends, to participate in storytime, music and motor activities.

English Conversation
Tuesday, February 25: 6 p.m. Learning to speak English? Join this club and practice speaking English in a friendly atmosphere with people from diverse backgrounds. The club meets weekly as a walk-in event on Tuesday evenings.

Weekly Storytimes
Tuesday, February 25: ages 3 to 5, 7:15 p.m., limit 30 people. Wednesday, February 26: ages newborn to 2, 10:15 a.m., limit 15 babies with parent(s)/caregiver(s); ages 2 to 3, 11:15 a.m., limit 30 people. Thursday, February 27: ages newborn to 2, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m., limit 15 babies with parent(s)/caregiver(s).

STEM-tastic!
Wednesday, February 26: 4:30 p.m., ages 5 to 12. Become a mad scientist by conducting hands-on, fun science experiments using basic scientific principles. No registration required.

Kids Achieve Club
Thursday, February 27: 4 p.m., ages 5 to 12. Homework help and reading practice for students in grades 1 through 6. Ayuda con las tareas y práctica de la lectura para los estudiantes en los grados de 1 al 6. Service will be provided during half-hour sessions by appointment only; call the Library to register at 301-345-5800 option 2.

French Conversation
Thursday, February 27: 5 p.m. Learning to speak French? Join this club and practice speaking French in a friendly atmosphere with people from diverse backgrounds. No registration required.

Story Explorers
Saturday, February 29: 4:30 p.m., ages 5 to 12. Come listen to a librarian read favorite stories aloud and do related activities and games. Celebrate the achievements of trailblazing black women in STEM. No registration required.

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Baritone Baker Featured In Philharmonic’s Fauré

by Susan Pearl

Greenbelter Joseph Baker was recently featured in the Prince George’s County Philharmonic newsletter, Quarter Notes. Baker is a baritone performing with the orchestra. Here is that interview, edited for space.

Quarter Notes: Thanks so much, Mr. Baker, for talking with the Philharmonic today. We very much look forward to our concert with you on February 15! It is always exciting to collaborate with the Suitland High School Concert Choir, and we are particularly pleased to have both of you as the soloists in the glorious Fauré Requiem. Could we start by talking about your training and careers?

Joseph Baker: I grew up in Prince George’s County, and now live in Greenbelt. I graduated from the Suitland Visual and Performing Arts High School. As an alumnus, I am particularly pleased to be singing this concert with the Suitland Concert Choir. After Suitland, I went to the Hartt School performing arts conservatory in Connecticut for my bachelor’s degree. I am now performing with several groups, including the Maryland Lyric Opera and the Washington National Opera chorus. I also teach a number of private voice students ranging from teenagers to retirees.

QN: We have seen some very enthusiastic reviews of operatic performances recently – your performance, as Papageno in Mozart’s Magic Flute with the Bel Cantanti Opera. Do you have some interesting performances coming up in this area in the next few months?

JB: As I am preparing for the Fauré, I’m at the same time performing in Massenet’s Thaïs with the Maryland Lyric Opera with a small role, as well as singing in the chorus. Also, we are beginning rehearsals for Mozart’s Don Giovanni with the Washington National Opera. I’ll be singing in the Don Giovanni chorus just



Joseph Baker

PHOTO COURTESY JOSEPH BAKER

about a month after the Philharmonic concert.

QN: How did you make contact with the Philharmonic for our February concert?

JB: I was connected with the Philharmonic through the chorus master, Kenneth Boucher, at Suitland High School, who is currently preparing

ing the Concert Choir for this performance of the Fauré Requiem. He recommended me to your music director as baritone soloist for the Fauré. So I am looking forward to performing again with the Concert Choir and the Philharmonic.

QN: Tell us some of your thoughts specifically about the Fauré Requiem.

JB: I have a special feeling about the Fauré Requiem, because it was this wonderful music that I sang, at age 19, in my first professional job as soloist, with chorus and orchestra. It will be wonderful to do it again with orchestra and chorus!

QN: Do you have any stories or anecdotes that you think may be of interest to our audience and supporters?

JB: I would like to say something about the training in performing arts that I received at Suitland High School. Its music and performance training is world-class – students get many of the advantages of a music conservatory. As a student at Suitland, I received training in several different languages, in music theory and had four years of free private professional voice lessons. We in the Concert Choir had fabulous performance experiences, including singing at the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. When I arrived as a freshman at the Hartt School, I was in some ways better prepared than many of the other incoming freshmen.

Susan Pearl recently conducted this interview for the Philharmonic’s Newsletter Quarter Notes.

Weekly Sewing for Charity At Greenbelt Recreation

by Janice Wolf



PHOTO BY JANICE WOLF

Eva Illescas of Greenbelt holds a lap quilt she’s just completed that will be donated to a nursing home or hospice.

Eva Illescas of Greenbelt is part of Sew for Charity, a weekly meet-up of sorts offered through the Greenbelt Recreation Department. Every Saturday, participants gather with their sewing machines, cutting mats and other notions to work on quilting and other sewing projects for charity. Sew for Charity accepts donated

materials. Members come from around the greater D.C. region to “meet in the middle.” They work on sewing or quilting projects for various charitable needs.

Since 2008, Sew for Charity members have sewn, quilted or crafted more than 10,000 items from chemotherapy hats and walker caddies to baby gowns

and lap robes, all for donation to a network of hospitals, nursing homes and hospices where they are needed.



City Notes

Animal Control impounded a stray dog and a dog was surrendered for adoption, so the shelter now houses two dogs. The gecko is still in foster care.

Code Enforcement mailed 13 warnings regarding excessive loud music, loud parties and yelling and removed eight illegal advertisement signs from the city’s right-of-way.

Horticulture/Parks maintained the butterfly garden and border beds at the Community Center.

Refuse/Recycling collected 25.08 tons of refuse and 12.26 tons of recyclable materials.

Environmental staff attended the Environmental Learning and Leadership Institute training at Goddard.

Recreation Department Administration is promoting participation in the 2020 Census.

Mom’s Morning Out celebrated Valentine’s Day. The preschoolers learned about heart-healthy diet and exercising every day, and explored African American history.

Aquatics held a First Aid/CPR/AED class on Friday, February 14.

Arts held a Parent’s Night Out and an Art Share program on Valentine’s Day weekend.

Arts staff is coordinating volunteers producing costumes, sets and props for the Winter Youth Musical.

CARES’s Judy Hering welcomed Nick Hayes of Terps for Change, a new partner for Greenbelt’s Vocational/Educational Program. The UMD students will assist with the ESOL and GED programs.



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Annual Membership Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Where: 15 Crescent Rd
Greenbelt, MD 20770
Meeting Room 201

Win the new Field Guild to Greenbelt's North Woods!

Go to GREENBELTONLINE.ORG/BLOG to read about the book and why the North Woods matter. Just leave a comment there to enter the random drawing. Deadline 2/24.

A Hundred Wild Things

A Field Guide to Plants in the Greenbelt North Woods

Owen A. Kelley

MUSICAL continued from page 1

actors who are featured in the production. “Rehearsing a brand-new show is quite different from doing a school production of an old Broadway musical. I make changes to the script and deliver additional songs week to week, which requires flexibility and patience on the part of the actors,” he said.

In return, the lead actors are showcased in parts that have been tailored to suit their particular talents. Following the casting rehearsal in mid-December, Cherry took two weeks off to hole up in New York and work intensively on the script, in order to align it with the casting. “You sometimes hear people speak of someone being born to play a certain role, but in our productions, it’s the roles that are born with the actors in mind,” he said.

The Greenbelt Youth Musical is an open enrollment program offered by the Recreation Department. Every young actor who

enrolls is cast in the play.

Looking back over 20 years, Cherry said that the program has been a formative experience for a generation of young people.

“Our primary mission is to create and strengthen community, both among the cast and in the greater Greenbelt community for which we perform,” he stated. “In the process, we strive to present shows that are entertaining and uplifting. I feel confident that Theseus will give everyone a boost.”

Show dates and times for Theseus are Saturday, March 7 at 7 p.m.; Sunday, March 8 at 3 p.m.; and Saturday, March 14 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. All performances are at the Community Center, where tickets are already on sale. The box office phone number is 301-397-2208. Greenbelt Youth Musical performances regularly sell out, so advance purchase is strongly advised.



Persephone (Madeline Hille), left, receives a rose from Pirithous (Ezra Pitts) during rehearsals.

- Photos by Olivia Guerrieri



Theseus (Sean Brittan-Powell), left, is divested of the royal torque by Hexistratus (Danny Zolt).

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Introducing our New Intern

by Brogan Gerhart

Brogan Gerhart is a junior journalism, criminology and criminal justice major at the University of Maryland, College Park. Although her family currently lives in Bel Air, Gerhart was born in Killeen, Texas.

Gerhart started reading the Greenbelt News Review as a sophomore at UMD, stealing it off the doorstep of her friends’ townhouse in Greenbelt Station. As an intern, she now gets the paper free.

A criminal justice junkie at heart, Gerhart has held internships with D.C. Pretrial Services Agency, strategic communications firm West End Strategy Team and the Undergraduate Student Legal Aid Office at UMD.

Gerhart’s favorite part about reporting is talking with community members and pursuing diverse news subjects and stories. Her love for community interaction also extends to the UMD residence halls, where she has been a Resident Assistant since freshman year.

News Review intern Brogan Gerhart

- Photos by Jaclyn Borowski

In her free time, Gerhart spends more time on her hands than her feet, practicing her handstands all around campus. She can also be found reading her favorite book series, Robert Jordan’s The Wheel of Time or filling her calendar with events to bring you next week’s story.

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Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltmd.gov/police
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Shooting
February 10, 9:53 a.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace. Officers responded to a report of a shooting and located a man suffering from apparent gunshot wounds to his upper body. He was transported to UM Prince George’s Hospital Center for treatment. An investigation is ongoing.

Robbery
February 10, 8:45 p.m., 6200 block Springhill Court. A man arranged to meet someone from a dating app outside of 6229 Springhill Court. As he walked toward the building, he was approached from behind by a man who displayed a handgun and announced a robbery. He took the man’s wallet, cell phone and car keys before he fled on foot. He is described as being Hispanic, 5’4” tall, 165 pounds, wearing a black mask, black hooded sweat-shirt, green camouflage pants, and black-and-white Adidas sneakers.

Theft
February 7, noon, 5900 block Cherrywood Lane. Three packages were taken from the front stoop of a residence.

February 10, 8 p.m., 7700 block Hanover Parkway. A package delivered to the front stoop of a residence was found opened and its contents removed.

Fraud
February 6, 4:58 p.m., 7600 block Ora Glen Drive. A woman who mailed checks at the Greenbelt Post Office found out later that the dollar amounts had been altered and deposited into a different bank account than intended.

February 11, 3:05 p.m., 7500 block Greenbelt Road. A woman left her credit card on a counter at Safeway. It was used later to make unauthorized purchases.

Vandalism
February 5, 11:02 p.m., 200 block Lakeside Drive. A bedroom window in a residence was broken out.

February 12, 2:22 p.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Lane. The

glass door of an apartment building was broken out.

Vehicle Crime
A 2018 Chevrolet Cruze stolen from the 9100 block Springhill Lane on February 10 was located the next evening in the 9100 block Edmonston Court, which resulted in the arrest of a 27-year-old nonresident. Charges placed against him include motor vehicle theft; malicious destruction; theft; rogue and vagabond; and other charges. When officers responded to a report of a tampering in progress, he was seen walking up to a vehicle with keys in his hand. This was the same Chevrolet Cruze that had been reported stolen the evening before, with an extra key left inside. He was also found to be in possession of property that had been taken from another vehicle nearby. He was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

Two other vehicles were also stolen. A silver 2003 Infiniti FX35 SUV with Maryland tags 7DJ7051 was taken from the 6100 block Breezewood Drive and a 4-door silver Chevrolet Aero with Maryland tags 1EA8582 was taken from the 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace. Rear tag, Maryland 9DZ5233, was taken from the 9300 block Edmonston Road.

A woman walking to her vehicle in the 6000 block Springhill Drive saw a man looking inside it, with the passenger side door open. She yelled to him and he turned toward her, holding a rock. She then left and called police. Further investigation revealed that the passenger window was broken out and a wallet was missing.

Items were stolen from three vehicles after windows had been broken to gain access. A purse, cell phone, money and personal documents were taken in the 7600 block Ora Glen Drive; change was taken from the 6000 block Springhill Drive; and mon-

ey was taken from the 6200 block Springhill Drive.

Windows were broken out in three locations, two in the 6000 block Springhill Drive and one in the 6100 block Breezewood Court. Nothing was taken.

CP Arts Exchange Hosts (Un)choir

On Friday, February 21 from 7 to 9 p.m. College Park Arts Exchange will host (un)choir at the Old Parish House, Knox Road. (Un)choir turns the tables on traditional choir. Learn a part and sing in harmony, all in one fun evening. No auditions, no rehearsals, no long-term commitment – just show up and sing. Get a lyric sheet, then Allison Hughes, music director for the College Park Chorale, will teach the choir two- or three-part harmony to a well-known song. Free – all are welcome.

Museum Highlights Local Black Aviators

The College Park Aviation Museum will host an African American Aviators tour on Saturday, February 22 from 11 a.m. to noon. Learn how African Americans in Prince George’s County and throughout the country negotiated discrimination and achieved success in the aviation industry. This program is free with museum admission.

DATING APP continued from page 1

where you have less chance of being victimized,” Mathews said. “For any social media transaction, we encourage residents to meet at the police department.”

Police ask that anyone with information regarding these incidents contact the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200.

COUNCIL continued from page 1

services would be “an extremely expensive proposition.”

Council was most united in its expressed concern about a new revision that removed a condition requiring Quantum to “submit a plan to the city that addresses how the needs of current Beltway Plaza tenants will be addressed.”

Tedesco stood by the current state of the PPS and its appended conditions, arguing that Quantum’s vision accounts for not only all relevant legal requirements, but also the concerns of every involved party. He described Quantum as both “fully vetted into the process” and committed.

During the public comment period, several audience members took the podium in defense of Quantum and in favor of the redevelopment.

“If we don’t do this, we are in the position of being eclipsed by everything around us,” Greenbelt Community Development Corporation President Susan Walker said. “And God help Greenbelt at that point.”

This sentiment was echoed by several Beltway Plaza Mall retailers, including Laugh Out Loud Station’s owner Regina

Bethea. “I really think that it’s about change, and it’s about other developments leaving us in the dust,” she said. “All of the other communities – if they’re going to be improving their locations, improving their places and bringing in tenants and bringing in money to their communities We’re not doing the same thing. Beltway Plaza is due for a change.”

The PPS is scheduled to go before the Prince George’s County Planning Board for review on Thursday, February 20.



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www.caprikarealty.com


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RATES

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BOXED: \$10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15). Deadline 4 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 8 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

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Sports

Road Runners Test Fitness in Hilly 59th Greenbelt Marathon Event

by Grace Kathleen Todd

In its 59th year, the George Washington Birthday Marathon and Relay that starts and ends in Greenbelt is the oldest in the capitol area, “which makes it an older marathon nationally,” said one of the race directors, Raj Bhanot. The race is a production of the DC Road Runners, a chapter of the Road Runners Club of America, which is open to runners of all types and abilities.

This year’s race was on Sunday, February 16. Of nearly 400 entrants, Jeremy Ardanuy of Baltimore and Elena Makarevich of Gaithersburg reigned victorious in the solo marathon, while an Alexandria, Va.-based team won the relay.

Ardanuy, 26, finished in 2:26:53, which means he averaged 5:37 minutes per mile over the 26.2-mile course. This wasn’t his first marathon triumph. He won the Baltimore marathon, a race with over 2,000 entrants, last October.

Makarevich 41, of Gaithersburg, was the lead female runner, finishing in 3:15:58, or just under a 7:30 pace. She was also the first female masters finisher. Erica Howes, 37, followed with a time of 3:20:40; Mary Edgmon, 35, rounded out the top three in 3:28:16.

In the men’s division, Justin Scheid, 34, of Succasunna, N.J., finished second in 2:28:29. Yasushi Sugita, 49, of Bethesda was

third in 2:45:18. Sugita was the top male masters runner.

The weather was partly cloudy and cool. The course started on Northway and Woodland Way and finished on the stream valley path behind Northway and consisted of three loops running through the Beltsville Agriculture Research Center and past the Goddard Space Flight Center.

“Loops are kind of nice,” Howes said. “Because you kind of knew what was coming.” Still, the course was not easy, but rather filled with rolling hills – including a 150-foot gain within the last couple of miles. “That was pretty killer,” Howes said.

That didn’t stop her from running her best marathon time yet, “by about six minutes.”

The relay option split the race up, with teams of three tackling 9.7, 7.3 and 9.2-mile legs.

3 Best Friends That Anyone Could Have, won the relay with a time of 2:31:52, averaging a 5:48 pace. The group consisted of Andrew Brodeur, who ran at Duke University, Gabrielle McKenzie and Nick Zalewski. “It was good to win,” McKenzie said.

The day, though, was not just meant for the winners. “We are a race for every runner,” Bhanot said. “We have the same excitement for the fastest runners and the last finishers.”

Spectators seemed to also, as



Volunteers and spectators await runners at the finish line.

PHOTO BY GRACE KATHLEEN TODD

they lined much of the course cheering. As did volunteers, whose tasks included handing out cups of water and directing runners at intersections.

“It means a lot just to hand out water, because [the runners are] exerting all their energy,” said Delna Clark, the volunteer coordinator for DC Road Runners. “I like to be here to help and make sure they finish and

have a good race.” According to Clark, there were about 100 volunteers. Race directors and runners alike were quick to praise them.

“This happens because of the volunteers,” Bhanot said. “The aid stations were great,” Howes said, describing how volunteers helped pour water into her water bottle along the course. “It’s hard to do while running.”

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2 br home in the heart of Greenbelt. Large 11' x 17' master br. Remodeled kitchen with granite counters. Shaded backyard w/patio.

Townhome with 2 additions

2 bedroom GHI home on fenced, corner lot. Large family room addition in back, extra storage in front. Central HVAC.

4 Bedroom 3 Level Townhome

Master bedroom & full bath on main level. Opened remodeled kitchen, fireplace in lr. Backs to protected woodlands.

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2 br townhome w front laundry/office addition. Opened kitchen w/passthru & pantry. Fenced backyard with large deck.

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Completely remodeled throughout; half bath on main level. Zoned HVAC system. Fenced yard, shed & raised deck.

Brick Townhome

2 Bedroom GHI townhome remodeled throughout. Modern kitchen with s/s dishwasher. Hardwood both levels. \$169,900

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Upper Level One Bedroom

GHI home with full-sized washer and dryer in separate laundry room. Refinished hardwood flooring throughout. Nice!

Your Greenbelt Specialists

In Roosevelt Center

DRUMS continued from page 1

facilitator Katy Gaughan, who organizes community drum circles on the first Saturday of each month at the New Deal Café.

“I really believe in drumming for wellness – because, you know what, we’ve all got a drum beating inside our chest, don’t we?” Gaughan asked event participants, many of whom were children. “When we drum together, it tunes us up – it tunes up our hearts, it tunes up our minds, it tunes up our bodies – because these drums have been played forever. Our ancestors knew to use them for music, and communication, and communion. So we can do that today, right here.”

Gaughan brought with her not only a host of different drums, such as the goblet-shaped djembes and the cone-shaped ashikos, but also a variety of fellow musicians. Her crew included musicians on the mbira, a wooden instrument played by plucking metal tines, the didgeridoo, a wind instrument played by blowing into its several-foot-long pipe, and the Native American flute.

“A drum circle is such a powerful and spiritual thing, being able to get in sync with the rhythm that’s going on in everybody’s heads,” observed Councilmember Emmett Jordan, who attended the event. “While it’s kind of abstract ... it’s really a deeply therapeutic thing.”

Other program highlights included a meditative dance performance by Padma Wine, a Shamanic Trance Dance Empowerment Center guide and guardian, and a family-friendly rap by Brian Butler, recreation coordinator at Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

Accompanying Butler’s performance and drumming throughout the event were many young participants from the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society’s Earth Squad, which CHEARS describes on its organizational website as “a co-learning tutoring and mentoring project that practices stewardship for the Three Sisters Gardens and Food Forest.”

Community response to the event seemed positive, as reflected by the words of Greenbelter Stacy Turay. “I thought it was awesome,” said Turay, whose grandchildren participated in the program. “It was very educational, and I think that [the organizers] should continue to come out and educate the community.”

Also describing the event as “awesome” was Tanya Knox. “I think it was a great event for the children, and also for the adults,” said Knox. “I believe that everyone learned from the event today about our culture – it doesn’t matter what color you are, we all are one.”



Musician Mark Francis Nickens plays the Native American flute at the “Wellness, Movement, Inspiration” community event.

- Photos by Michelle Siegel



Three-year-old Rylan Davis, granddaughter of CHEARS Board Convener and Earth Squad Coordinator Carolyn Lambright-Davis, helps herself to a drum.

The City of Greenbelt’s observation of Black History Month continues through this weekend, with a movie screening of Harriet starting at 1 p.m. Sunday,

February 23 at the Old Greenbelt Theatre. Desegregating Greenbelt, the panel discussion scheduled for February 22, has been postponed.



Belly Dancers of Color Collective and the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Gospel Choir perform at the Black History Month program on Sunday February 9. The dance troop is made up of Lori Alford, Adina Gittens-Smith and Leila Rossado.

- Photos by Beverly Palau

New Field Guide Identifies Plants in the Forest Preserve

by Brogan Gerhart



PHOTO BY OWEN KELLEY

A Hundred Wild Things provides a fresh look at Greenbelt’s natural beauty. “Any Greenbelter who has hiked the swampy parts of the North Woods in the summer has seen the skunk cabbage’s large leaves,” Kelley says. “But few of us have seen its short-lived winter flower.”

In 2019, Greenbelter Owen Kelley published his first book, titled A Hundred Wild Things: A Field Guide to Plants in the Greenbelt North Woods, as a way for people in the community to connect with the forest.

This 244-page book includes over 200 full-color photographs, taken by Kelley, with descriptions and interesting facts about more than a hundred examples of Greenbelt’s plant life. The book also includes a historical context of Greenbelt North Woods, a map of the area and how the forest has changed since it was first surveyed in 1907.

His inspiration for the guide came from his two sons: John, 11, and Ezekiel, 8. “I wanted them to know the forest as well as my wife, Genevieve, and I know it,” Kelley said. “There’s also a sub-culture of people in Greenbelt who care a lot about the forest and are concerned when someone wants to turn it

into a parking lot.” Kelley works in data visualization and analysis at NASA and is also a proud member of Greenbelt’s Forest Preserve Advisory Board.

“Owen Kelley has really done his homework and provides a comprehensive guide for anyone who finds themselves wandering the forest, asking themselves ‘What is this plant?’” said Jason Martin, cofounder of Greenbelt Biota.

“There’s a history and natural life course to a forest,” Kelley said. “If you like our forests, you need to know what’s growing there to have a better sense of how to care for it.”

The book may be purchased directly from the author at okelley@gmu.edu or from the Greenbelt Museum’s gift shop at 10 Crescent Road, open Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. The book is also available from retailers such as amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.

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